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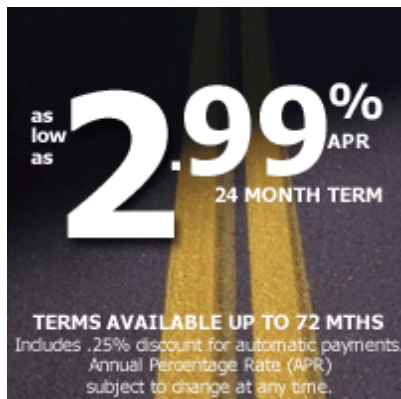
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NH man wanted in sexual assault captured in Ind.



A 71-year-old used car dealer who fled Concord after a 15-year-old girl accused him of sexual assault was arrested in southern Indiana Thursday, according to the U.S. Marshal Service.

Deputies with the Marshal Service tracked Thomas Monahan to a Motel 6 in Seymour, Ind., a town about 60 miles south of Indianapolis on Interstate 65.

Deputies had Monahan under surveillance for two days before arresting

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him, according to a statement issued yesterday.

Deputy U.S. Marshal Jeffrey White said Monahan had proven a slippery adversary, and marshals used nearly every trick in the book to capture him.

"It was a chase," White said. "He's been running, he's been hiding, he was doing everything to avoid being captured."

Authorities have said that Monahan has a lengthy criminal record that involves prior sexual assaults, fraud and bad check crimes dating back to the 1950s.

In July, Monahan hired the girl to wash cars at Northwest Auto Wholesalers, a family-run dealership, police said. He is accused of driving the girl to a residence in Kingston, sexually assaulting her, driving her back to Concord and warning her to tell no one.

She reported the assault to Concord police that day, and Kingston police joined in the investigation. Monahan fled New Hampshire shortly after the girl reported the assault.

Monahan — who was described as 6-foot, 3-inches tall and more than 300 pounds — faces charges of aggravated felonious sexual assault, endangering the welfare of a child and false imprisonment in New Hampshire.

The Marshal's Service said Monahan is alleged to be involved in car fraud and issuing bad checks in Indiana. He is awaiting extradition and is being held by the Jackson County Sheriff Department.

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